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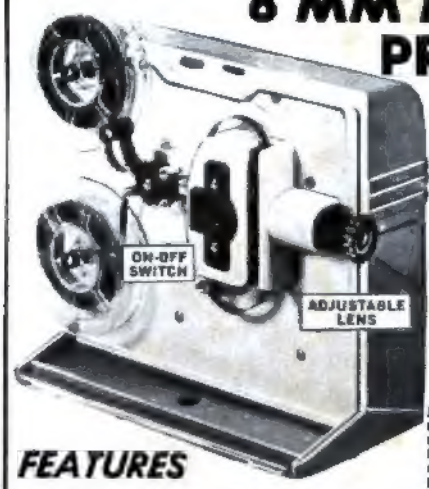

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WEIRD

VOL. 9 No.3

SEPT. 1976

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Witches REVENGE

THE TIME IS RIPE, MY *LOVELIES*-- THE TIME IS RIPE FOR THE LAST OF THE VILE NOONANS TO *FALL* FROM THE FAMILY TREE... AND THAT TREE WILL BEAR NO MORE FRUIT!

HEE-HEEEE!

WE WILL MAKE HIM MOULDER IN THE IRISH EARTH, EH, SATAN?

FOR CENTURIES, THE NOONAN FAMILY IN IRELAND TORTURED AND KILLED US-- BUT THE WEIRD POWERS OF A WITCH HAD TAKEN A TOLL OF THEM, TOO! MANY TIMES HAVE THE CHURCH BELLS TOLLED A NOONAN TO AN EARLY GRAVE! NOW, ONLY MICHAEL NOONAN REMAINS... THE *LAST* OF THAT CURSED BREED OF *WITCH KILLERS*...

...I WILL VANQUISH HIM HORRIBLY...

BOIL AND *BUBBLE*, YE BREWERS OF *TROUBLE*! WE'LL MAKE HIM SUFFER...WE'LL MAKE HIS PAIN *DOUBLE*!!

HEE-HEEEE!

AHH-H...GO *EVIL* ONE... GO SEEK MICHAEL NOONAN IN AMERICA--BRING HIM TO HIS HOMELAND AND WE'LL GIVE GIVE HIM A *WARM WELCOME*!

HEE--HEEE!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN AN AMERICAN COLLEGE...

HE... HE'S RIGHT IN HERE, DOC... OH--HE'S GONE!
(PUFF-PUFF) MY... WHAT A DEVIL OF A MESS... SAY-- (PUFF) IS THIS A COLLEGE STUNT?

HE'S LEFT A NOTE... SAYS... "I MUST GO TO IRELAND--THE LAND OF MY ANCESTORS... DO NOT FOLLOW ME, THOMAS!"
LOOK! LOOK! WHY... THE BOY'S GONE MAD!

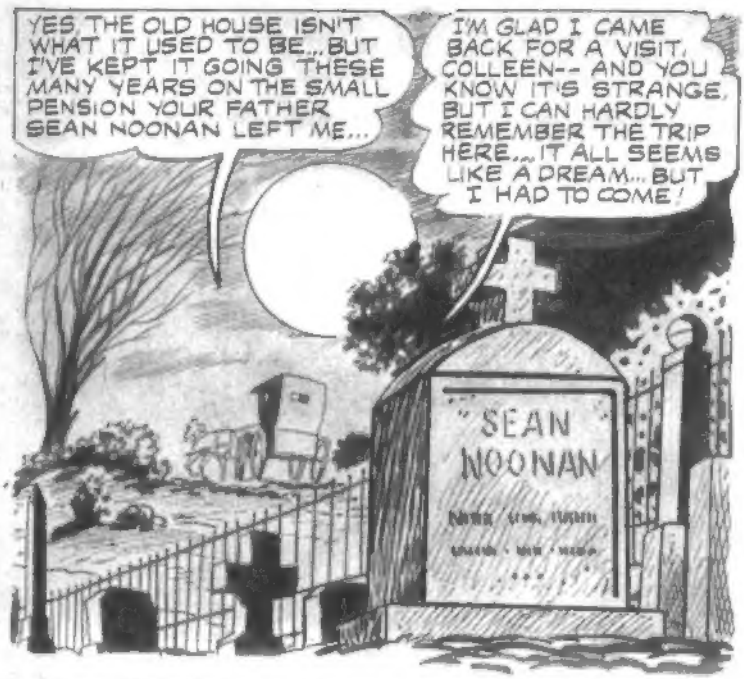
YES, I'M COMING... COMING...
FASTER! FASTER!
MIKE... MIKE COME BACK!
WHO'S THE LAD TALKING TO? THERE'S NO ONE THERE! HE'S MAD!

THAT PASSENGER IN SEAT ONE GIVES ME THE CREEPS! HE HASN'T SAID A WORD OR TAKEN A BITE TO EAT IN HOURS!
I KNOW... I'LL BE GLAD WHEN WE LAND IN DUBLIN, AND WE'RE RID OF HIM! HE'S MADE EVERYONE UNCOMFORTABLE!

I KNEW WHEN MICHAEL NOONAN APPROACHED IRELAND! THE BLOOD IN MY VEINS RAN COLD AS SNAKES, AND IN THE WIND WERE THE EERIE VOICES OF DEAD WITCHES SCREAMING THEIR HATE FROM THEIR ANCIENT GRAVES WHERE THE HATED NOONANS HAD SENT THEM! I WENT TO GREET HIM...
WELCOME, MICHAEL NOONAN... WELCOME TO THE LAND OF YOUR ANCESTORS! I HAVE A CARRIAGE WAITING...
YOU... I REMEMBER YOU... I REMEMBER SOMETHING... YOUR VOICE... FACE...

NOW IT WAS TIME TO BREAK THE ENCHANTMENT! I HAD A MORE HORRIBLE FATE IN STORE FOR MICHAEL NOONAN... HORROR HE WOULD NOT FEEL IN A TRANCE SO...
SNAP!

WHY...WHY...I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE MY OLD NURSE COLLEEN! BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD...MANY YEARS AGO!
NO, MICHAEL... YOUR OLD COLLEEN IS STILL ALIVE-- HEH-HEH-HEH!


YES, THE OLD HOUSE ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE...BUT I'VE KEPT IT GOING THESE MANY YEARS ON THE SMALL PENSION YOUR FATHER SEAN NOONAN LEFT ME...
I'M GLAD I CAME BACK FOR A VISIT, COLLEEN-- AND YOU KNOW IT'S STRANGE, BUT I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER THE TRIP HERE...IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM... BUT I HAD TO COME!
SEAN NOONAN

OF COURSE THE FOLKS AROUND HERE SAY THE OLD NOONAN MANOR HOUSE IS HAUNTED--BUT I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE THESE MANY YEARS SO YOU CAN SEE IT'S NOT TRUE! PEOPLE ARE FOOLS...
CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM, COLLEEN...THE OLD PLACE HAS GONE TO SEED...IT LOOKS LIKE A ROTTING COFFIN... SOMETHING THAT SHOULD HAVE STAYED BURIED!

HOW DOES THE ROOM LOOK, MICHAEL? OH, YOU MUST MEET SAT--I MEAN SADIE, MY CAT! SHE'S BEEN MY FRIEND FOR MANY YEARS! COME HERE...SADIE...
I CAN JUST ABOUT REMEMBER IT...

HERE, SA...DIE. THIS IS MICHAEL NOONAN, THE ONE I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT...OH...
MEOOO WHRR!
OW!! WHY YOU BLACK DEVIL!

I SLIPPED A POTION INTO HIS FOOD THAT NIGHT, AND THEN MICHAEL NOONAN STUMBLED TO BED WEARILY...
SOON YOU'LL FEEL THE ANCIENT FURY OF A WITCH AROUND YOUR NECK... AYE... YOU'LL DANCE A MERRY DANCE ONLY IT WILL BE A DANCE OF DEATH! HEEE-HEEEE!

OH-UH, GOOD MORNING, COLLEEN! GEE, I HAVEN'T SLEPT LIKE THAT FOR YEARS... I SLEPT LIKE A DEAD MAN!
I'VE GOT YOUR BREAKFAST READY, MASTER MICHAEL-- THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL WANT TO WALK TO THE VILLAGE AND SEE HOW IT'S GROWN SINCE YOU LAST SAW IT!

AHHH! HE IS GONE... NOW IS THE TIME TO TRAP HIM! BUT I MUST BE CAREFUL... THE TOWNSPEOPLE DON'T FIND OUT THAT THE OLD HAG OF THE HILLS STILL LIVES!

I KNEW THE AGONY I WOULD HAVE TO SUFFER TO MAKE SUCH A VIOLENT TRANSFORMATION!! I SWALLOWED THE LIQUID FIRE AND IT SEARED MY THROAT HORRIBLY...

AHHH... THE TRANSFORMATION IS ALMOST COMPLETE! MY HANDS ARE SMOOTH AND WHITE... AND BEGUILING... TO LEAD NOONAN INTO THE TRAP.. HA-HA-HA-HA!

SOMETIME LATER...
YES, I REMEMBER THE OLD NOONANS... ESPECIALLY YOUR FATHER SEAN! THERE'S A MAN WHO WASN'T AFRAID OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?
TRY TO STEAL MY WALLET, WILL YOU, YOU YOUNG WITCH!
LET ME ALONE! HELP! HELP ME SOMEONE!

OH, MY POOR WRIST... YOU'VE HURT ME...
LOOK HERE, THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT HER EVEN IF WHAT YOU SAID IS TRUE!
KEEP OUT OF THIS, LAD... I'M NOT A MAN TO BE THREATENED! GET OUT OF MY WAY!

ALL RIGHT, THEN! I'LL HAVE TO TEACH YOU WITH MY FIST!
HE'S ALWAYS TRYING TO GET ME IN TROUBLE JUST BECAUSE I REFUSED TO GO OUT WITH HIM! OH, LOOK OUT!

OH, YOU'VE KILLED HIM!
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU PICK A FIGHT WITH A NOONAN!

HURRY, STEVE... OH-OH -- TOO LATE...
HE DID IT, OFFICER... OH, IT WAS TERRIBLE... HIT HIM WITH THIS BOTTLE ... LOOK AT THE BLOOD ON IT! POOR FELLOW NEVER HAD A CHANCE!

ALL RIGHT, YOUNG FELLOW -- BETTER COME ALONG WITH ME... AND DON'T GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE! YOU, TOO, LADY!
BUT... BUT...
POOR OLD CLANCY LOOKS DONE FOR, STEVE... THAT WAS A FOUL WAY FOR A NOONAN TO FIGHT -- WITH A BOTTLE ACROSS THE HEAD! THEY'LL HANG YOU!

IT WAS WORKING PERFECTLY... EACH ONE OF THE WORDS SENT MICHAEL NOONAN A STEP CLOSER TO THE GALLOWS...
...THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
HE...HE SNEAKED UP BEHIND POOR CLANCY AND HIT HIM WITH THE BOTTLE... OH, IT WAS AWFUL... THE POOR MAN HAD NO CHANCE TO DEFEND HIMSELF!
SHE LIES! SHE LIES!
RESTRAIN THAT MAN!

MICHAEL NOONAN, IT IS THE DECISION OF THIS COURT THAT YOU ARE GUILTY! ON MARCH 13TH YOU WILL BE HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD FOR THE FOUL MURDER YOU HAVE COMMITTED! TAKE HIM AWAY!

YOU! YOU... YOU WITCH! YOU'VE DONE THIS TO ME BY LYING! WHY? WHY HAVE YOU DONE IT?
YOU'VE GUESSED RIGHT... A WITCH HAS DONE THIS! YOU ARE GOING TO PAY WITH YOUR LIFE FOR ALL THE MISERY THAT YOUR FATHER'S FAMILY HAS BROUGHT TO MY PEOPLE... THE WITCHES OF IRELAND! WE HAVE BEATEN YOU! HAHAHA--HA HA HEE-EE!

BUT MY VENGEANCE WAS NOT COMPLETE... I HAD OTHER PLANS FOR MICHAEL AFTER HE DIED...
THERE HE IS, LADY!
GO AWAY, COLLEEN! I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME HERE!
NEVER MIND, MICHAEL! I BELIEVE IN YOU! HERE, I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL TO EAT! YOU MUST KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP!

...THE DAY OF THE HANGING CAME...
FOR THE LAST TIME I TELL YOU I'M INNOCENT! I KILLED HIM IN SELF-DEFENSE! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
PEACE BE WITH YOU, MY SON!

I PRONOUNCE MICHAEL NOONAN DEAD!
GOOD RIDDANCE
LET HIM HANG UNTIL HIS COFFIN IS READY

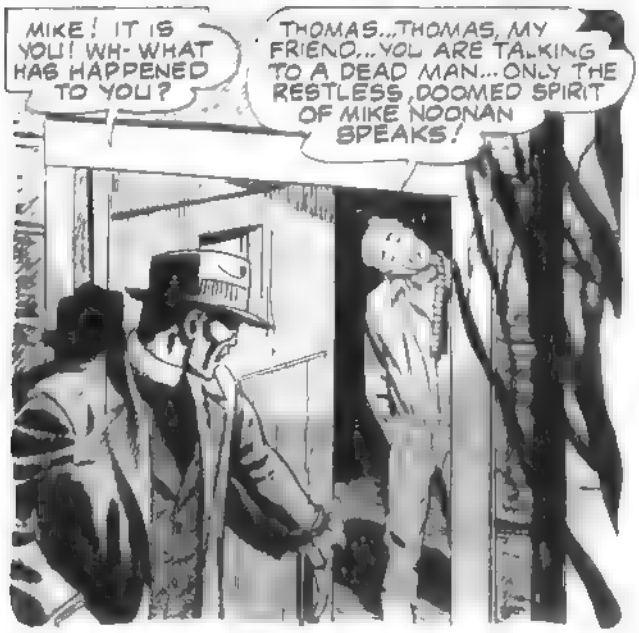
BUT SEVERAL HOURS LATER WHEN THE GUARD CAME TO CUT HIM DOWN...
SAINTS PRESERVE US.. HE'S... HE-- HE'S GONE!

WHY AM I STILL WALKING THE EARTH? THE DOCTOR PRONOUNCED ME DEAD...I HEARD HIM!! BUT HOW CAN THAT BE?? SOMETHING...SOMETHING IS FORCING ME TO WALK

WHY AM I HERE?
WELCOME MICHAEL NOONAN...WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU MY FRIENDS AND I. THEY LIKE YOU ARE DOOMED AND CURSED AND MUST WALK THE EARTH UNTIL THE END OF TIME OR UNTIL I RELEASE THEM AND I NEVER WILL. YOU CAN SEE HOW EACH ONE OF THEM DIED, LIKE YOU...THEY'RE MY ENEMIES!

THE NOOSE... THE NOOSE IT CHOKES ME ARGHHH!
HEE-HEE, IT WILL CHOKE YOU FOR CENTURIES HEAR MY CURSE ON YOU...YOU ARE DOOMED TO WALK THE EARTH TO HAUNT THE OLD MANOR HOUSE... FOREVER! AND THAT NOOSE WILL CHOKE YOU FOREVER... NOW... GO.

BUT SEVERAL MONTHS LATER.
MIKE NOONAN MIKE NOONAN
NO!!


MIKE! IT IS YOU! WH- WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?
THOMAS...THOMAS, MY FRIEND...YOU ARE TALKING TO A DEAD MAN...ONLY THE RESTLESS, DOOMED SPIRIT OF MIKE NOONAN SPEAKS!

AND THAT'S MY STORY, THOMAS... DOOMED... DOOMED...
T.. IT'S INCREDIBLE! BUT I'M GLAD I CAME LOOKING FOR YOU--THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN HELP YOU...EH! WHAT WAS THAT?
HEE--HEEE! LISTEN TO THE FOOLISH MORTAL, SATAN!

LISTEN, EVIL ONE! IN THE NAME OF THE GOOD BOOK, I DEMAND YOU RELEASE MICHAEL NOONAN FROM YOUR UNJUST CURSE! SPEAK!
NO...NO! COME NO CLOSER TO ME! YOU MUST HANG HIM... HANG HIM...

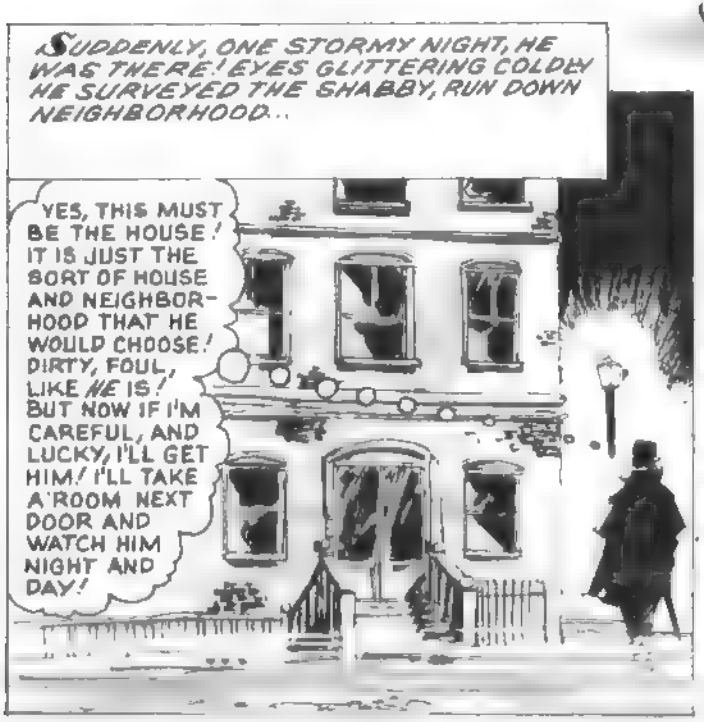
KEEP BACK... KEEP BACK KEEP BAAAHHHH!
PEACE BE WITH YOU, EVIL ONE! MAY THERE BE MERCY EVEN FOR YOU!

DO NOT GRIEVE, THOMAS! I AM BODILY DEAD...IT IS MY SPIRIT WHICH YOU MUST HELP ME LAY AT REST! I AM WEARY, THOMAS...WEARY! NOW YOU MUST HELP ME DO THE DEED... GOODBYE...

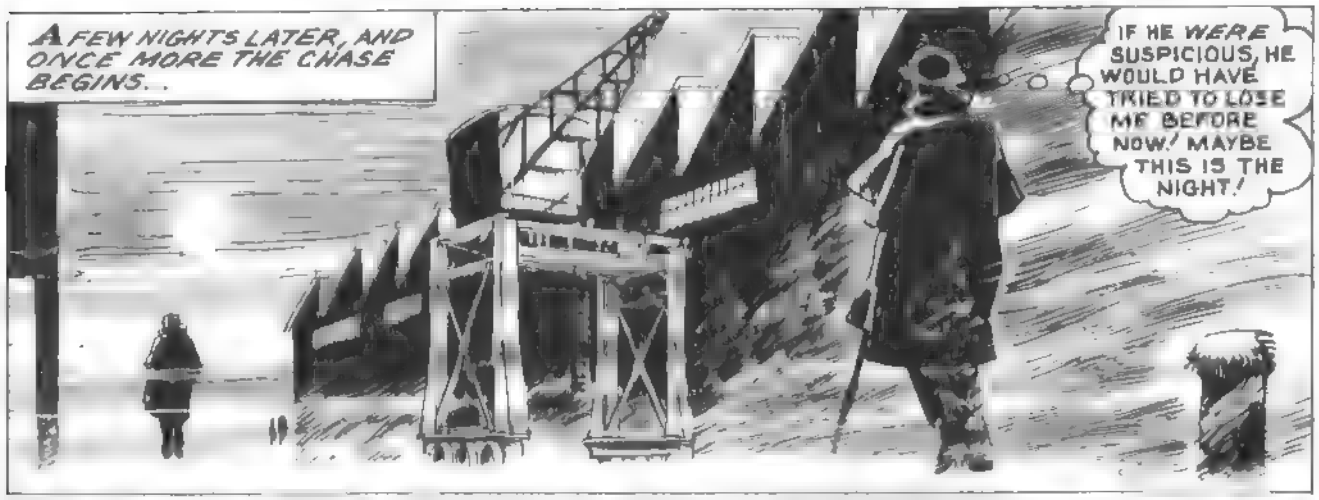
GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND...
THE END

FANGS of TERROR

WHAT STRANGE AND SINISTER MISSION BROUGHT THE SINISTER STRANGER TO TOWN? WHO WAS HE, WHENCE DID HE COME, WHAT DID HE WANT? HE KEPT TO HIMSELF, ALWAYS WATCHFUL, ALWAYS WAITING! TALL, GRIM, AUSTERE, HE WAS A MAN WHO WAS DEDICATED TO **DEATH**! HE FREQUENTED THE SORDID PARTS OF THE CITY, THE STINKING GARBAGE STREWN STREETS WHERE THE RATS, HUMAN AND OTHERWISE, PROWLED IN A DEADLY SEARCH FOR PREY! THEN ONE BLEAK NIGHT, THE STRANGER FOUND WHAT HE SOUGHT AND AT LAST, HE KEPT HIS **GRIM APPOINTMENT!**

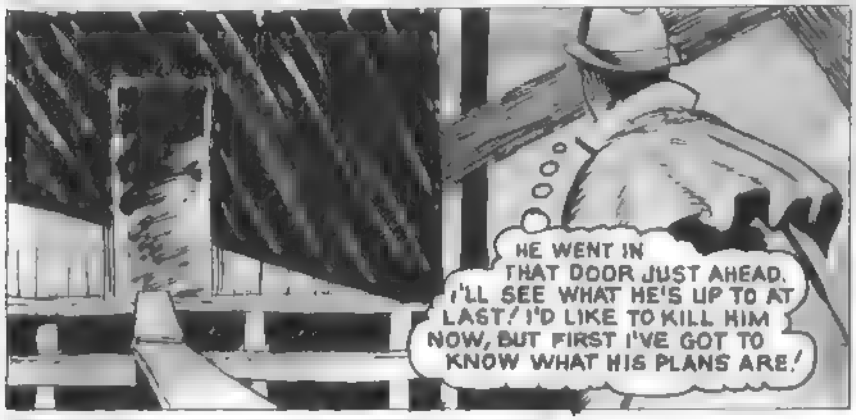


AND THEN ONE DAY, THE STRANGER SEES HIS QUARRY LEAVE THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR! HIMSELF UNSEEN, HE WATCHES FROM A DARKENED WINDOW AS A SMALL, RODENT-LIKE MAN SCURRIES FURTIVELY AWAY!
AT LAST! THE WAITING HAS BEEN WORTH WHILE... NOW I CAN BEGIN TO ENJOY MYSELF!
STEALTHILY, LIKE A GREAT CAT, THE STRANGER FOLLOWS THE LITTLE MAN.
HA, THE FOOL IS CONFIDENT! DOESN'T DREAM THAT HE'S BEING FOLLOWED! IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER IN THE END!
INTO AN EVEN POORER SECTION OF THE CITY THE STRANGER FOLLOWS! BOTH MEN ARE NOW SOAKED BY THE WIND LASHED RAIN!
SEEMS TO BE HEADED FOR THE WATERFRONT... HIS KIND ALWAYS SEEK OUT THE WATERFRONTS OF THE WORLD!
THE LITTLE MAN ROUNDS A CORNER AND STOPS, HIS NOSTRILS QUIVERING! HE ACTUALLY SEEMS TO SMELL THE DANGER! FOR A MOMENT HE SNIFFS THE AIR...
AND WHEN THE STRANGER TURNS THE SAME CORNER HE FINDS AN EMPTY STREET...
FOOLED ME! HE'S CLEVERER THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR! I WONDER IF HE COULD HAVE SMELLED ME!
LATER, THE STRANGER PACES HIS ROOM IN DEEP THOUGHT...
I'VE BEEN UNDERESTIMATING HIM, AND THAT'S ALWAYS A MISTAKE! I DON'T THINK HE KNEW I WAS FOLLOWING HIM!

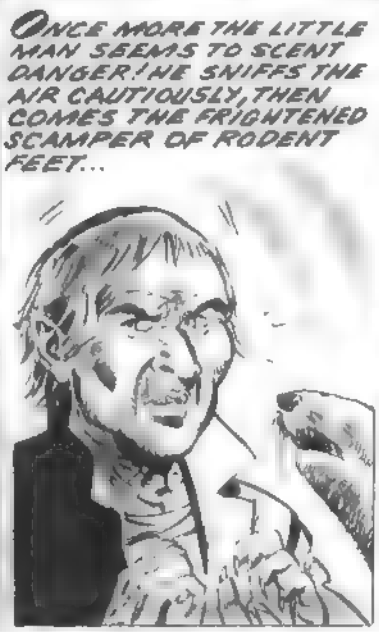

A FEW NIGHTS LATER, AND ONCE MORE THE CHASE BEGINS...
IF HE WERE SUSPICIOUS, HE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO LOSE ME BEFORE NOW! MAYBE THIS IS THE NIGHT!

SO HE LEADS ME TO THIS OLD WAREHOUSE, BY THE WATER, AND NOW HE'S GOING DOWN THROUGH THAT TRAP-DOOR!

WE'RE DOWN UNDER THE DOCKS NOW, AND THERE HE IS! MOVES QUIETLY TOO! HA HA! ALMOST AS QUIETLY AS ME!


HE WENT IN THAT DOOR JUST AHEAD. I'LL SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO AT LAST! I'D LIKE TO KILL HIM NOW, BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT HIS PLANS ARE!

RATS! HUNDREDS OF RATS! WELL, THAT FIGURES! BUT AT LEAST I KNOW! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM!


ONCE MORE THE LITTLE MAN SEEMS TO SCENT DANGER! HE SNIFFS THE AIR CAUTIOUSLY, THEN COMES THE FRIGHTENED SCAMPER OF RODENT FEET...

IN A FLASH THE ROOM IS EMPTY...
THAT TIME HE WAS DEFINITELY ALARMED, ...AND HOW DID HE GET OUT?

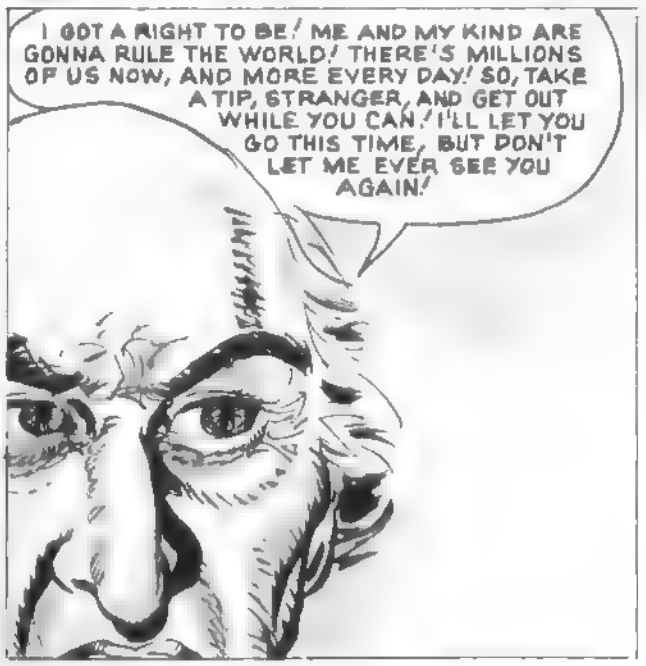
THE STRANGER GOES BACK TO HIS HIDEOUT...
YES, HE MAY HAVE BEGUN TO SUSPECT BY NOW! BUT THE BEAUTY OF IT IS THAT HE CAN'T BE SURE! AS THE HUNTER I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND DISGUISE MYSELF IN A WAY HE CAN'T PENETRATE!

AS HE ENTERS HIS ROOM, HE SENSES INSTANTLY THAT HE IS NOT ALONE ..
SOMEONE IN HERE! IN THE CLOSET OBVIOUSLY!
ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN COME OUT OF THE CLOSET NOW!

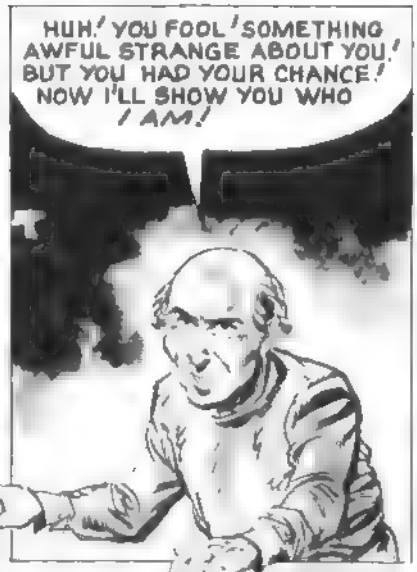
AT LAST THEY MEET FACE TO FACE .
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME, BUT TONIGHT I FOLLOWED YOU AND SLIPPED UP HERE BEFORE YOU!
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU?

BECAUSE I SMELLED YOU, THAT'S WHY! MY SENSE OF SMELL IS VERY ACUTE! ONLY THERE'S SOMETHING PECULIAR ABOUT YOUR SMELL!
PECULIAR ABOUT MY SMELL... MAYBE I'VE PLANNED IT THAT WAY!

MAYBE, BUT YOU'RE IN TROUBLE BUDDY! IF YOU KNEW WHO I REALLY AM, YOU'D DIE OF FRIGHT!
YOU'RE VERY SURE OF YOURSELF!


I GOT A RIGHT TO BE! ME AND MY KIND ARE GONNA RULE THE WORLD! THERE'S MILLIONS OF US NOW, AND MORE EVERY DAY! SO, TAKE A TIP, STRANGER, AND GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN! I'LL LET YOU GO THIS TIME, BUT DON'T LET ME EVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU'RE WRONG! YOU AND YOUR KIND WILL NEVER RULE THE WORLD WHILE I'M ALIVE!


HUH! YOU FOOL! SOMETHING AWFUL STRANGE ABOUT YOU! BUT YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE! NOW I'LL SHOW YOU WHO I AM!

I ALREADY KNOW!
YEAH? WELL NOW YOU CAN BE SURE! BECAUSE I'M THE KING OF THE RATS- AND I'M GONNA GNAW ON YOU!

AND I AM THE KING OF THE CATS! I DISGUISED MY SMELL! BUT YOU COULDN'T HIDE YOURS!
YORWWW!

THE FIGHT IS SWIFT AND DEADLY...
ARRGHHH

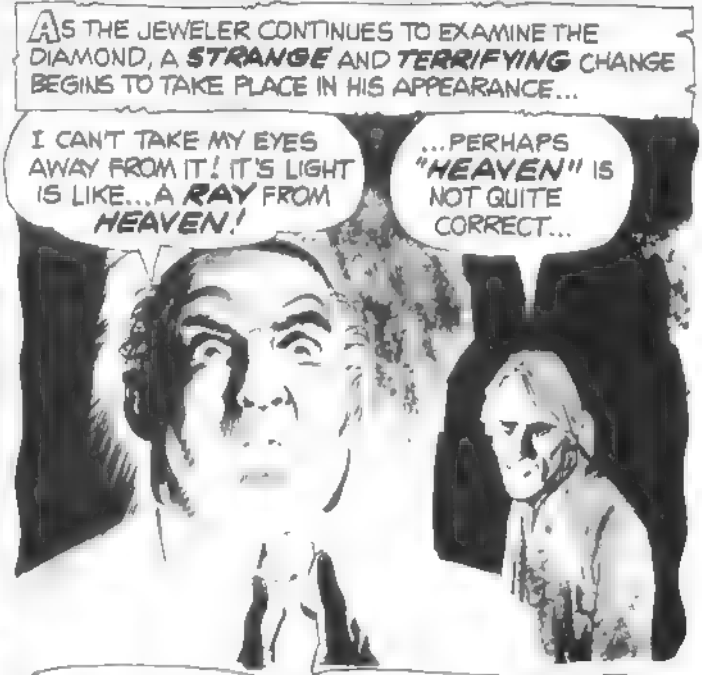
AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS I HAVE FOUND AND KILLED HIM! MY JOB IS DONE FOR NOW! BUT THERE ARE OTHER RAT KINGS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD! THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEW ONE! A SHARP FANGED CUNNING RAT KING! MY JOB IS TO KILL THE RAT KINGS!

AND THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER VANISHES INTO THE NIGHT...
I MUST GO TO LONDON AT ONCE! THERE IS BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!
THE END

HAHAHAHA
THE DIAMOND IS MINE!
MINE! MINE!
SATAN'S STONE!
OF ALL THE SINS OF MAN, NONE CORRODES THE SOUL LIKE GREED... FOR ONLY GREED GROWS INTO A NUMBING HORROR...

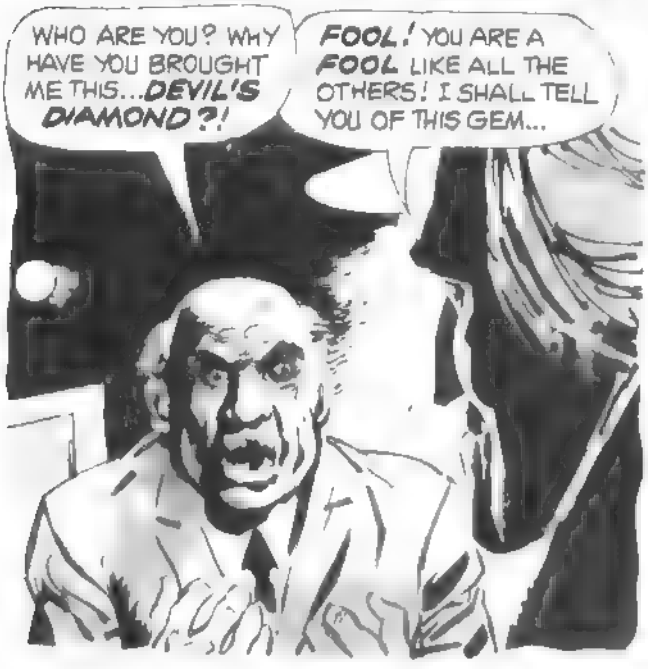
ON A STICKY SUMMER EVENING, A REPULSIVE WOMAN STANDS BEFORE JEWELER FELIX SCHILLER....
WHAT IS IT OLD WOMAN?
YOU SHALL BE MORE FRIENDLY WHEN YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE BROUGHT!
BEHOLD: A DIAMOND! A GLITTERING, PERFECT BLUE-WHITE DIAMOND!
LET ME SEE IT! HOW IT SPARKLES!

YES! IT IS PERFECT! PERFECT! WHAT A MARVELOUS GEM!
IT IS A GEM OF.... UNTOLD WONDERS!


AS THE JEWELER CONTINUES TO EXAMINE THE DIAMOND, A STRANGE AND TERRIFYING CHANGE BEGINS TO TAKE PLACE IN HIS APPEARANCE...
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES AWAY FROM IT! IT'S LIGHT IS LIKE...A RAY FROM HEAVEN!
...PERHAPS "HEAVEN" IS NOT QUITE CORRECT...

WHAT IS YOUR PRICE, OLD WOMAN? I'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING!
YOU HAVE PAID FOR IT ALREADY!

WHAT DO YOU M.... YAHHH-H-H!
THERE! YOU CAN SEE THAT YOU OWE ME NOTHING! I COULD NEVER SELL MY PRECIOUS DIAMOND TO...ANYONE!


WHO ARE YOU? WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME THIS...DEVIL'S DIAMOND?!
FOOL! YOU ARE A FOOL LIKE ALL THE OTHERS! I SHALL TELL YOU OF THIS GEM...

THIS DIAMOND IS OF RARE ORIENTAL ORIGIN.. ITS RAYS DESTROY THOSE CAUGHT IN THE GREED OF POSSESSION!

SUDDENLY, THE JEWELER TURNS ON HER...
SO BE IT! IF I AM TO BE DESTROYED, THEN SO SHALL YOU!! DIE!!
AAA-
GGHH!
AH, MY BEAUTY! SHINE ONLY FOR ME! AND WHEN YOU SHINE ON, OTHERS, EAT AT THEIR FLESH AS YOU HAVE MINE!
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
I AM MOST INTERESTED IN VERY RARE GEMS!
THE YOU SHALL SEE THE FINEST!
AHHH! WHAT A SUPERB DIAMOND! EVERY PART IS.... PERFECT!
I AM AFRAID THE PRICE IS MUCH LARGER THAN YOU THINK...IN FACT...
GAZE UPON THE COST IT HAS EXACTED FROM YOU! IS IT WORTH IT??
MY FACE!! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY FACE?
HORRIFIED AND UNBELIEVING, THE MERCHANT FLEES LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED!
HA! HA! HA! HA!

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE JEWELER, BRINGS MORE AND MORE VICTIMS INTO HIS TERRIBLE BROTHERHOOD OF GREED!...
UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL! AND YET IT FEELS SO STRANGE. ALMOST AS IF IT WERE ALIVE!...
...DISGUST FOR SUCH AS YOU...AND I!! BEHOLD!!
WH...ARGH-H-H
WITH MANIACAL PERSISTENCE, SCHILLER WREAKS THE CORRODING POWER OF THE DIAMOND UPON ALL WHO WISH TO GAZE UPON IT...
AND THEN ONE EVENING...
YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL, OLD WOMAN! YOU HAVE GIVEN ME YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HUMAN HEART! GREED RULES THE WORLD!
...MY HANDS!! THEY'VE WITHERED AWAY INTO HIDEOUS CLAWS! I DIDN'T NOTICE!
AND MY BODY TOO! IT'S BEGINNING TO DISINTEGRATE LIKE MY FACE...

BUT IF MY BODY CRUMBLES, THEN I SHALL LOSE THE DIAMOND! WHEN I AM A SKELETON--THEY WILL COME FOR IT!!
HORRIFIED BY THE THOUGHT OF THE CREEPING DEATH, THE JEWELER SITS, CLUTCHING THE DEVIL'S DIAMOND!
I--CAN'T--MOVE!--I CAN ONLY SIT HERE--BUT I'LL NEVER GIVE IT UP! NEVER!
THEN ONE NIGHT, THE GREEDY VICTIMS OF THE DIAMOND SUDDENLY APPEAR!
THERE HE IS! HOW HE SMILES TO THINK THE DIAMOND IS HIS! WE SHALL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH TONIGHT!
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME NOW? I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU!!
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES YOU SHALL BECOME A FETID CORPSE--AND THEN THE DIAMOND WILL BE YOURS NO LONGER!!
LIKE BIRDS OF PREY PLUCKING AT A HUMAN BODY, THE MEN DANCE ABOUT THE DYING SCHILLER, THEIR EYES FASTENED ON THE GLITTERING DOOM IN HIS WITHERING HANDS!
NEVER! THE DIAMOND IS MINE! THE DIAMOND IS M----AAGH-H-H!
NOBODY ELSE SHALL HAVE IT! IT BELONGS TO ME!
NO!! IT'S MINE!

AND THEN AN UNHOLY BATTLE BEGINS... AS THE DESPERATE AND DYING CREATURES USE ALL THEIR WANING STRENGTH IN A MAD DESIRE FOR THE DIAMOND!..
MINE!
MINE!
I'VE GOT IT!
AT LAST!! I HAVE IT! NOBODY SHALL EVER TAKE IT FROM ME! NOBODY!!
BUT AS THE DEALER IN DIAMONDS SHOUTS HIS TRIUMPH, HIS DOOM SWIFTLY DESCENDS TO DEVOUR HIS BODY...
A...HUMAN SKELETON!! BUT HOW DID IT EVER...??
A SHORT WHILE LATER..
HARRIET! L--LOOK!! A DIAMOND! SOMEONE MUST HAVE LOST IT!
OH, BERNARD! IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
WITH THE GREED SHINING IN THEIR EYES LIKE THE UNHOLY LIGHT OF THE DIAMOND, THE YOUNG COUPLE MOVE SLOWLY TOWARDS...
LET'S NOT TELL ANYONE, HARRIET! THE DIAMOND IS OURS!
YES, OF COURSE!! IT'S...OURS!!...
The End

THE BLOOD-DRIPPING HEAD

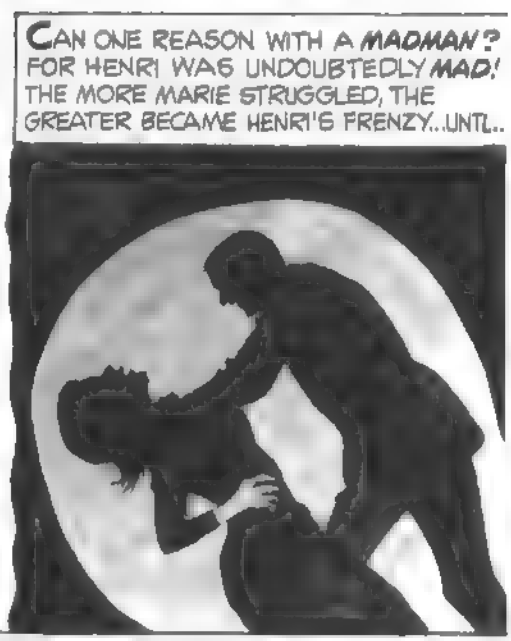
HENRI FABRET WAS A QUEER ONE! TO SO MANY, THE SIGHT OF BLOOD WAS A HORRIBLE THING... BUT TO HENRI EVEN AS A CHILD OF TEN...,
BE CAREFUL WITH THAT KNIFE, HENRI!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
OUCH!
YOU CUT YOURSELF!
I MUST GO TELL YOUR MOTHER, SHE WILL STOP THE BLEEDING!
NO....NO! I LIKE TO WATCH THE BLEEDING!
...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.... BEAUTIFUL RED BLOOD!
THE YEARS PASSED, AND HENRI BECAME A YOUNG MAN. STILL THERE WAS THE QUEERNESS ABOUT HIM....
I AM SO WORRIED ABOUT OUR HENRI! HE IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER BOYS! HE SEEMS SO STRANGE.. SO CRUEL.
MY DEAR, SOON HE WILL BE SERVING HIS TIME IN THE ARMY... AND THAT WILL SOON CURE HIM OF ANY DESIRE TO SEE BLOOD!
BUT THE ARMY DIDN'T QUENCH HENRI'S STRANGE DESIRE TO SEE BLOOD. IN FACT, SHORTLY AFTER HE JOINED....
I HAVE NEWS... GREAT NEWS! WAR HAS BEEN DECLARED! WE WILL SOON BE IN BATTLE!

ALL AROUND HENRI, THE EXCITEMENT MOUNTED! BUT TO HIM, THERE WAS ONLY THE SURGE OF GREAT INNER JOY....
I'D BETTER WRITE TO MY MOTHER AT ONCE!
I WONDER WHERE WE'LL BE SENT!
NOW THERE WILL BE MORE BLOOD THAN EVER!
AND, IN BATTLE, HENRI WAS A GOOD SOLDIER...
YOU CAN'T CHARGE THEM BY YOURSELF!
YOU'LL BE KILLED!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
BUT IT WASN'T BRAVERY THAT MADE HIM GO FORWARD, AS ALWAYS.....IT WAS HIS OBSESSION...
NOW... I WILL GET WHAT I WANT!
KILL! KILL! SEE THE BLOOD FLOW!
TO MOST SOLDIERS THE WAR WAS A BLOODY NIGHTMARE. BUT NOT FOR HENRI, TO HIM IT WAS EXHALTATION BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS UNTIL....
LISTEN! IT'S OVER! THE WAR IS OVER! WE WILL ALL BE GOING HOME!
NO! NO, IT CAN'T BE OVER!
YES....FOR EVERYONE THE NEWS WAS WONDERFUL. BUT NOT FOR HENRI. TO HIM, THE END OF THE WAR MEANT THE END OF DESIRE!
IT CAN'T BE OVER! I MUST SEE THE BLOOD FLOW! FLOW LIKE A RIVER!

SO HENRI FABRET WAS A CIVILIAN AGAIN ... MOROSE...SILENT....SEARCHING FOR THE SOLUTION TO THAT CONSTANT CHURNING WITHIN HIM, THEN, IN A RESTAURANT, THERE WAS MARIE....
FOR WEEKS YOU HAVE BEEN COMING HERE, MONSIEUR, AND YOU NEVER SMILE. WHY DO YOU NOT SMILE....FOR MARIE?
WHY ..I.. ..I GUESS I WAS THINKING!
OF WHAT, MONSIEUR?
OF YOU AND HOW I SHOULD LIKE YOUR COMPANY THIS EVENING....
AND SO...LATER THAT EVENING....
BUT WHY DO WE GO HERE? WHY TO THE FIGHTS?
BECAUSE I LIKE THEM.... BECAUSE THEY GIVE ME WHAT I WANT....
WHY SHOULDN'T HENRI LIKE THE FIGHTS? AFTER ALL, DIDN'T THEY PROVIDE....WHAT HE WANTED!
HIT HIM! MORE! MORE! MORE BLOOD!
MARIE MUST HAVE WONDERED WHAT KIND OF MAN SHE WAS WITH!.. BUT AFTER THE FIGHTS WERE OVER!
LET'S GO UP TO MY PLACE, HENRI ..TO GET THE TASTE OF THAT HORRIBLE FIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH!
AS YOU WISH, MARIE ...AS YOU WISH.
LATER...
HENRI, HOW DO YOU EARN YOUR LIVING? WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO?
NOTHING NOW. BUT TOMORROW I AM STARTING ON A NEW JOB... ONE THAT SHOULD BE VERY PLEASANT!
OUCH! THE BOTTLE CHIPPED! .MY FINGER IS BLEEDING!
GREAT! LET ME SEE!

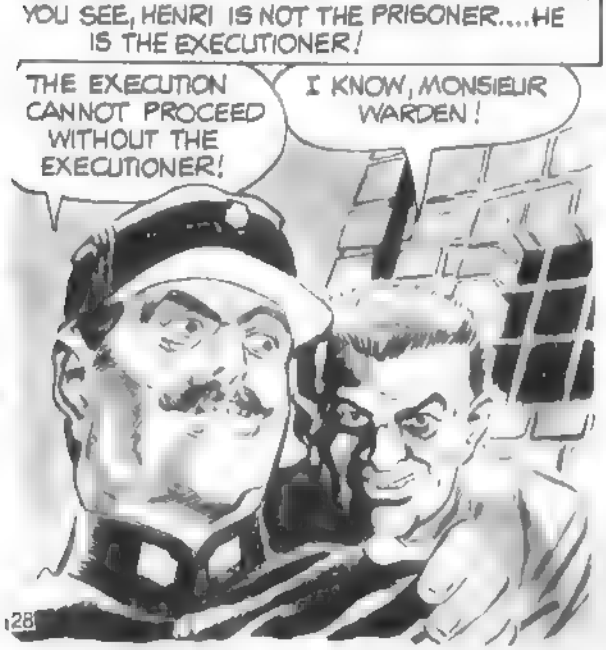
LET ME GO! I WANT TO STOP THE BLEEDING!
NO....LET IT BLEED! I WANT TO SEE IT BLEED!

LET ME GO! LET ME GO! YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND!
DON'T STRUGGLE WITH ME....I WARN YOU!


CAN ONE REASON WITH A MADMAN? FOR HENRI WAS UNDOUBTEDLY MAD! THE MORE MARIE STRUGGLED, THE GREATER BECAME HENRI'S FRENZY...UNTIL..

SO....SHE IS DEAD! BUT I WARNED HER....I WARNED HER!

SO NOW, HENRI FABRET APPROACHES THE GUILLOTINE! BUT WHAT OF THIS SMILE ON HIS FACE? IS NOT A MAN NEARING THE GUILLOTINE EXPECTED TO BE AFRAID? MAYBE A NORMAL MAN....BUT NOT HENRI!
NOW THERE WILL BE BLOOD....MUCH BLOOD....THERE WILL ALWAYS BE BLOOD!


BUT HENRI HAS NO REASON TO BE AFRAID! FOR YOU SEE, HENRI IS NOT THE PRISONER....HE IS THE EXECUTIONER!
THE EXECUTION CANNOT PROCEED WITHOUT THE EXECUTIONER!
I KNOW, MONSIEUR WARDEN!

MAGNIFIQUE! A RIVER OF BLOOD, PURE JOY!
OF COURSE, THEY FOUND THE MURDERED GIRL AND 3 MONTHS LATER, THE EXECUTIONER WAS EXECUTED! EYEWITNESSES SAY HE WAS SMILING WHEN THE BLADE STRUCK!
FINISH

THE NARROW, WINDING ROAD THAT TWISTS UP PRECIPITOUS CLIFFS TO THE GRIM CASTLE THAT ETCHES THE ANGRY SKY IS CALLED BY THOSE WHO LIVE IN ITS SHADOWS, THE...
HOUSE OF MONSTERS
AT THIS POINT IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE DORNERS BOTH HERE AND ABROAD ARE A FAMILY OF NOTED SCIENTISTS WHO SPECIALIZE IN PSYCHIC PHENOMENA AS WELL AS OTHER UNUSUAL EXPERIMENTS! THE CASTLE ON BLACK MOUNTAIN HAS PASSED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION AND NOW PAUL DORNER IS ABOUT TO INHERIT THE EDIFICE!

FIRST WE MUST TAKE YOU TO A LAW OFFICE...
YOUR UNCLE HAS LEFT YOU THIS CASTLE IN HIS WILL, DORNER...BUT I'M WARNING YOU... STRANGE THINGS ARE GOING ON UP THERE!
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES! THE DORNERS ARE MEN OF SCIENCE, MR BLANE! WE LEAVE SUPERSTITION TO THE VILLAGERS!
Last Will and Testament of Mr DORNER
WELL GOOD LUCK! IF YOU CONTACT A PETE SMITH, HE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU! ...BY THE WAY, TAKE A PISTOL FOR PROTECTION!
THANKS... I'LL TAKE THE ADVICE!
YOUNG DORNER DISMISSED BLANE'S CAUTION AS EYE WASH...AND TO SHOW HIM THAT SCIENTISTS DON'T SCARE EASILY, SET OUT FOR THE BLACK MOUNTAINS THAT AFTERNOON...
UNTIL FINALLY, IN A TAVERN IN THE TOWN OVER-SHADOWED BY THE MYSTERIOUS CASTLE...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE OLD DORNER CASTLE, BARTENDER?
NOTHING I'D CARE TO TELL YOU, STRANGER! ASK THAT BAR FLY OVER THERE... HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN HITTING THE BOTTLE HARD!
ER-MIND IF I JOIN YOU, SIR? MY NAME IS DORNER!
DORNER? ..CASTLE? ARRGH-HH!
MONSTER! MONSTER!!
KEEP AWAY!
TAKE IT EASY! I'M YOUR FRIEND! COME BACK! HEY!

NEXT EVENING PAUL WAS EAGER TO BE OFF, BUT IN THE SILENCE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE DRUNK'S TERROR STILL WITH HIM, HE BEGAN TO FEEL HIS CONFIDENCE OOZE AWAY!
IF HE HAD KNOWN WHAT HORRORS WERE BEING HATCHED BY THE DARK FORCES OF EVIL IN THE CASTLE HE WOULD'VE TURNED BACK!
YOUNG DORNER IS ON HIS WAY, PROFESSOR! WE GOTTA GET RID OF HIM!
DON'T WORRY! A SHOT OF THIS SERUM INTO OUR LITTLE FRIEND HERE WILL DECIDE WHO OWNS THE CASTLE!
PROF. VARIG ASSISTANT TO PAUL'S UNCLE WITHDREW THE NEEDLE AND THEN WATCHED IT GROW INTO A FRIENZIED HULK OF A MONSTER, THEN VARIG SET IT ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN TO MEET PAUL DORNER!
GOOD LORD! WHAT KIND OF THING IS IT?
PAUL FROZE IN HIS TRACKS AS THE LOATHSOME HULK BLOCKED HIS PATH AND REACHED FOR HIM!

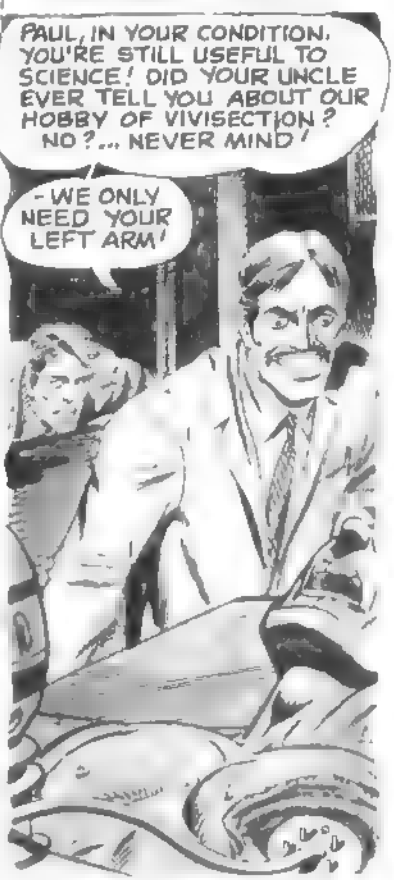
TERROR FORCED HIS HAND TO RIP AN AUTOMATIC FROM ITS HOLSTER AND AS THE GUN SPAT OUT A STACCATO OF LEAD, HIDEOUS SCREAMS ROARED THROUGHOUT THE MOUNTAINSIDE...
SUDDENLY, A SWISH OF AIR AND...
RIP!
R-RAWH!
GR
YARWRRK!
MY ARM! MY ARM!
THE SIGHT OF HIS ARM AND THE WOUNDED MONSTER STUNNED PAUL'S BRAIN! HE STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET... THE PAIN MINIMIZED BY A STATE OF SHOCK!

...AND STUMBLED DAZEDLY INTO DORNER CASTLE AS UNSEEN EYES WATCHED CLOSELY EVERY STEP HE MADE IN THE EERIE CORRIDORS!

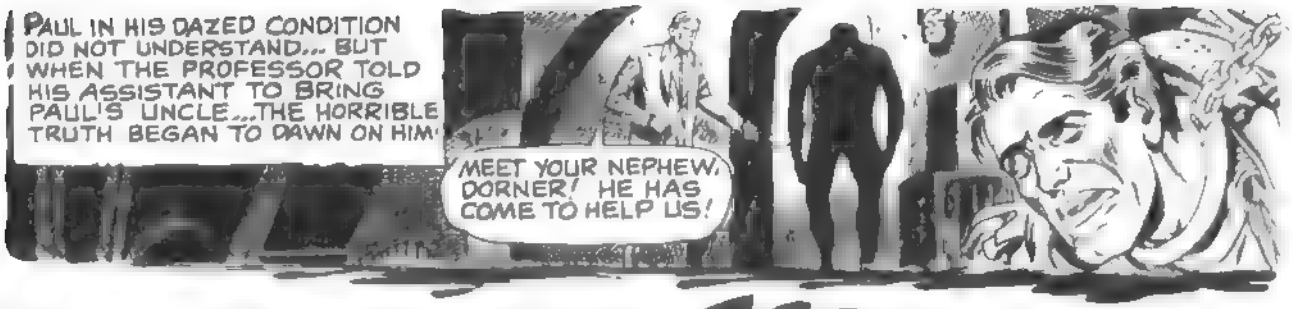
HE GOT PAST THE MONSTER! I'LL FIX HIM FOR YOU NOW, PROFESSOR!
VERY WELL... BUT DON'T MESS HIM UP... I WANT A GOOD SPECIMEN!

CRACK

HOURS LATER, THE ACRID ODOR OF DISINFECTANTS AND A THROBBING ARM AWAKENED PAUL DORNER INTO A SCENE OF INDESCRIBABLE HORROR ...


...ONLY TO LEARN HIS FATE AS PRESCRIBED BY PROFESSOR VARIG!
PAUL, IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU'RE STILL USEFUL TO SCIENCE! DID YOUR UNCLE EVER TELL YOU ABOUT OUR HOBBY OF VIVISECTION? NO?... NEVER MIND!
-WE ONLY NEED YOUR LEFT ARM!

BY THE WAY, YOUR UNCLE'S WILL GAVE US MORE MATERIAL TO WORK ON THAN WE BARGAINED FOR... FIRST HIM AND NOW... YOU!


PAUL IN HIS DAZED CONDITION DID NOT UNDERSTAND... BUT WHEN THE PROFESSOR TOLD HIS ASSISTANT TO BRING PAUL'S UNCLE...THE HORRIBLE TRUTH BEGAN TO DAWN ON HIM
MEET YOUR NEPHEW, DORNER! HE HAS COME TO HELP US!

Y-YOU COULDN'T HAVE SOB Y-YOU... MADMEN!
THAT'S NOT MY UNCLE! HE'S DEAD! --DEAD!
PAUL'S MIND WANDERED... THE LOSS OF BLOOD FROM HIS WOUND FORCED HIM INTO A WELCOMED BLACKOUT WHEN SUDDENLY THE LAB WAS FILLED WITH SHRILL SCREAMS!

SCREECH! WARGHHH

W-WHAT IS IT?
THAT FOOL! HE MUST HAVE ONLY WOUNDED THE MONSTER! AND THE SERUM IS STILL WORKING!

RUN! RUN!

THE MONSTER, THIRSTING FOR REVENGE FOR THE WOUNDS IT HAD SUFFERED LASHES OUT AT PROF. VARIG AND HIS ASSISTANT!
MY LEG!
AKKKGHH!

MEANWHILE, PAUL CAME TO, AND...
I AM YOUR UNCLE, PAUL! THE KEY... ON THE FLOOR... FELL OUT OF THE PROFESSOR'S POCKET!

UNCLE! LOOK OUT... THE MONSTER IS HEADED FOR YOU!

THE GRUESOME SAVAGERY OF THE MONSTER ATTACKING HIS UNCLE AND THE FIENDISH HOWLS OF THE OTHER BATTLING MONSTERS AS THEY BROKE FROM THEIR CAGES IN THE DARK RECESSES OF THE EVIL CASTLE...

...DROVE PAUL SCREAMING INTO THE DARKNESS... AND... INSANITY!

BUT THE LOSS OF BLOOD WAS TOO MUCH FOR PAUL! THE TOWNSFOLK FOUND HIM ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN... DEAD!
THE END

TO VERY FEW IS IT GIVEN TO PROBE INTO THE BLACK RECESSES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD... TO LEARN THE CHILLING SECRETS BEHIND YAWNING GRAVES! TO LEARN IS TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE DAMNED...

Pit of Evil

TAKE THEM, MY FRIEND! DRAG THEM TO THE HELLISH DEPTHS WHERE THE DARKNESS IS ETERNAL!

NO! NO! AH-H-H!

OH, SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, RISE AND WALK AMONG US, AGAIN SO WE MAY LEARN WHAT LIES BENEATH YOUR TOMBS!
FRED IS OUTDOING HIMSELF TONIGHT!!
DO YOU KNOW I ALMOST FOUND MYSELF BELIEVING WHAT I WAS SAYING!
TAKE IT EASY, FRED! REMEMBER, WE'RE ONLY HERE TO ENJOY OURSELVES!
SUDDENLY, THE LAUGHTER STOPS AS A MYSTERIOUS MAN ENTERS THE ROOM...
PARDON ME, BUT MY NAME IS JONES AND I WAS HOPING YOU WERE ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS INTO YOUR SOCIETY!
I--I--WE WEREN'T CONSIDERING ANY NEW--
FOR MY INITIATION INTO THE SOCIETY, I COULD RAISE THE WANDERING SPIRIT OF A DEAD SOUL...!
THAT'S REALLY VERY FUNNY, MR JONES! YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN RAISE THE DEAD! HA! HA! HA!
THE RAUCOUS LAUGHTER OF THE DISBELIEVERS CONTINUES, BUT AS THE MAN SPEAKS, THE LAUGHTER BECOMES HOLLOW AND STRAINED... ALMOST FEARFUL...
YOU LAUGH, MY FRIENDS, BUT RECENTLY A MAN SCOFFED WHEN I FINISHED MY WORK...

--THE SCOFFER WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CHAIR-- STARING HORRIBLY AT NOTHING!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
TURN THE LIGHTS ON!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!

WITHOUT WARNING THE BLACKNESS IS BROKEN BY A GHASTLY DECAYING BODY BEARING THE MARK OF THE GRAVE...
AHH, YOU HAVE COME FROM THE BLACK PIT OF DEATH TO PROVE MY POWER!

TH-THE LIGHT WORKS!
WH...!
NO-O-!

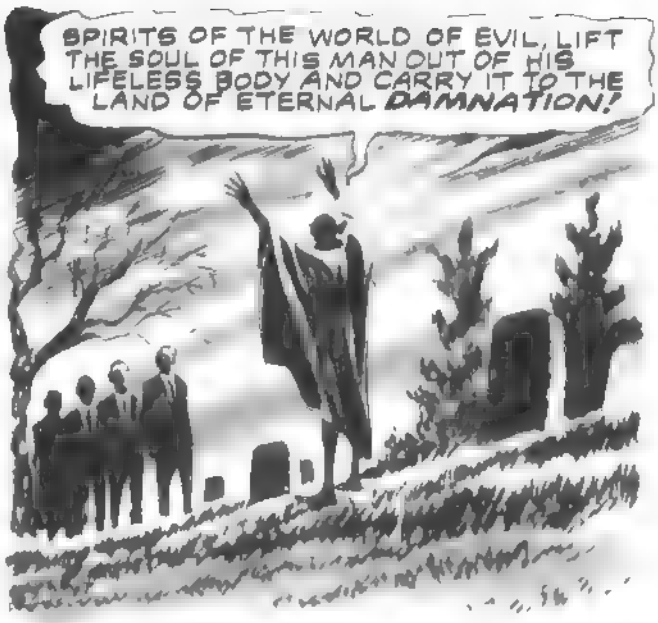
THE RETURNING LIGHT REVEALS A DREADFUL SIGHT...FOR THE MAN WHO HAD SCORNED THE STRANGE INTRUDER SITS LIFELESS IN HIS CHAIR...
BEHOLD, GENTS-- THE FRUITS OF DISBELIEF!

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I-I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

COMPELLED BY A FORCE WHICH CANNOT BE EXPLAINED, THE TERRIFIED MEN TURN TO THE SMILING STRANGER FOR HELP, SETTING THEIR FEET ON A PATH FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RETURN!

ON A SHORT WHILE, THE AIR IS MADE FOUL BY A WEIRD PROCESSION

HURRY! IT WILL SOON BE DAYLIGHT!
HERE, THE NIGHT IS ENDLESS! YOU WILL COVER THE GRAVE WHILE I SPEAK!

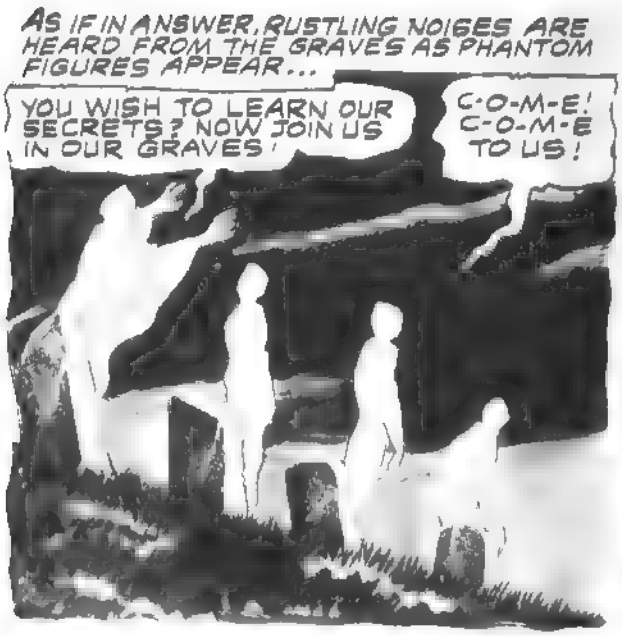

SPIRITS OF THE WORLD OF EVIL, LIFT THE SOUL OF THIS MAN OUT OF HIS LIFELESS BODY AND CARRY IT TO THE LAND OF ETERNAL DAMNATION!

I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
SO AM I! I WANT NO PART OF THIS!

STOP!! YOU WILL GO NO FURTHER!

LEGS FREEZE IN RIGID TERROR AS THE VOICE OF THE STRANGER ORDERS THEM TO HALT...
THERE IS NO TURNING BACK!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO US? WHAT POWER DO YOU HAVE?
MY LEGS WON'T MOVE!


AS IF IN ANSWER, RUSTLING NOIGES ARE HEARD FROM THE GRAVES AS PHANTOM FIGURES APPEAR...
YOU WISH TO LEARN OUR SECRETS? NOW JOIN US IN OUR GRAVES!
C-O-M-E! C-O-M-E TO US!

NO! NO! AARRGH!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE! C-O-M-E!

HURRY, MY PRETTIES! TAKE THEM WITH YOU TO YOUR HOMES!
LET ME GO! AH-H!
UGH-H!

LIKE FLIES TRAPPED IN A GIANT SPIDER WEB, THE DOOMED MEN ARE DRAGGED TO THEIR DEATHS...
YOU CAN'T... AAHRRGH!
NO!

TH-THEY DISAPPEARED INTO THE GRAVES!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US NOW?
I--I SMELL SOMETHING IN THE AIR!

IT'S THE SMELL OF BRIMSTONE!

WHO ARE YOU? TELL US!
IT IS TIME THAT YOU KNEW MY IDENTITY!

I CALL MYSELF MR JONES...BUT I HAVE ANOTHER AND FAR MORE FAMOUS NAME--I AM--

A SUDDEN BURST OF FLAME INTRUDES UPON THE BLACKNESS, AND THE FIGURE OF MR. JONES GLOWS WITH THE LIGHT OF PURE EVIL AND MALICE!
SATAN THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS!

...AND NOW YOU MUST BECOME MY DISCIPLES, NEW MEMBERS IN THE LEAGUE OF THE DAMNED!

HA! HA! NOW IT IS I WHO IS HAVING THE FUN!! YOU SCOFFED AT THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD--AND NOW YOU WILL WISH YOU WERE AMONG THEM!

LET THOSE WHO WISH TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF THE OTHER WORLD, TAKE HEED BEFORE THEY BEGIN--FOR THEREIN LIES WILD TERROR AND HORRIBLE DEATH!
DANCE, MY FRIENDS, DANCE FOR YOUR MASTER! HA! HA!
THE END

DROWNED IN SAND

WAS IT THE SICKENING CLOYISH FUMES OF THE ANESTHESIA... OR WAS IT MAN'S BASIC DRIVE TO SEEK SOMETHING HE HAS LOST THAT DROVE RICKY SLATE THROUGH THOSE TORTUROUS GROTESQUE SCENES OF...

HURRY! I'LL SAVE YOU! I--I'VE GOT TO...

IT'S COMING! HELP ME!

A SILENT NIGHT... AND RICKY SLATE AND A FELLOW PRISONER TALK ABOUT AN OMINOUS SUBJECT...

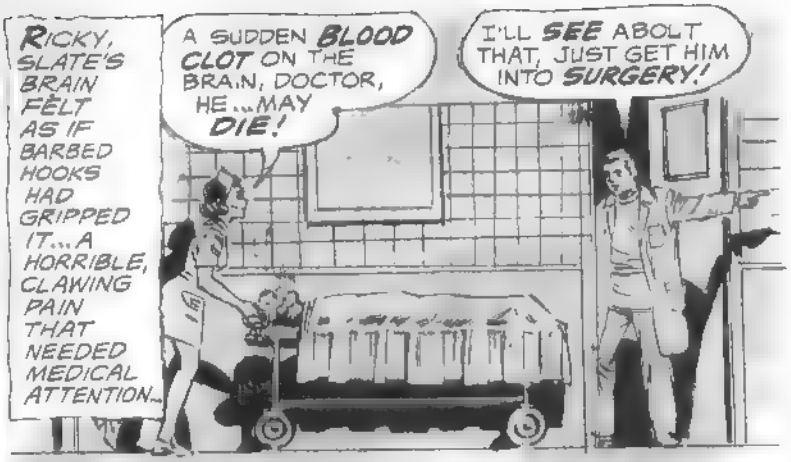
RICKY, YOU STILL THINK YOU GOT YOUR SOUL? I MEAN-- MAYBE YOU MIGHT HAVE LOST IT FOR MURDERING THOSE TWO PEOPLE?

WHO CARES?

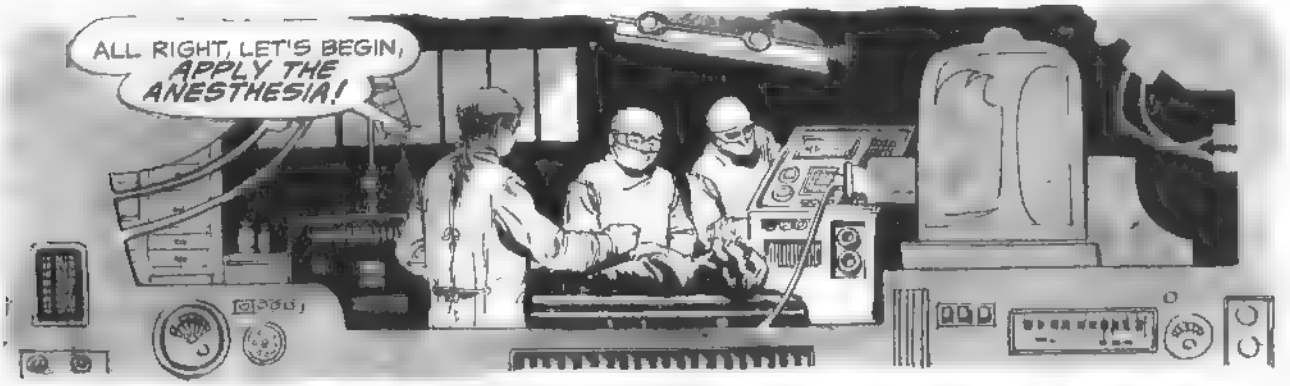
YOU GOT TO FIND YOUR SOUL... IF YOU WANT TO REST EASY... AFTER YOU DIE! I...

STOP TALKING SO MUCH! MY HEAD... FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BURST!

YEOW! MY HEAD..GET A DOC...
DOCTOR! DOCTOR!


RICKY, SLATE'S BRAIN FELT AS IF BARBED HOOKS HAD GRIPPED IT...A HORRIBLE, CLAWING PAIN THAT NEEDED MEDICAL ATTENTION...
A SUDDEN BLOOD CLOT ON THE BRAIN, DOCTOR, HE...MAY DIE!
I'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, JUST GET HIM INTO SURGERY!

IT'S SERIOUS, SLATE! BUT, I'LL DO MY BEST!
O--OKAY, DOC...


ALL RIGHT, LET'S BEGIN, APPLY THE ANESTHESIA!

THE ANESTHETIC FUMES ENCLOSED ABOUT SLATE, BENUMBING HIS SENSES... AND ONLY STRANGE, CRACKLING VOICES SEPARATED REALITY FROM THE UNKNOWN REALM OF THE UNCONSCIOUS...
HE'S SINKING... GOING UNDER...
SINKING
GOING
UNDER

THE HYPNOTIC TORPOR OF SLEEP FADED INTO MISTY NOTHINGNESS! THEN, SLATE FOUND HIMSELF IN ANOTHER WORLD, BOTH COMPREHENSIVE AND FANTASTIC!
WH--WHERE AM I? WHY AM I HERE?
AND... THAT MAN... COMING TOWARDS ME...
HELLO, SLATE, DON'T BE AFRAID!
DON'T COME NEAR ME! STAY AWAY!
THE WORDS WERE KINDLY, QUIET.. A WELCOMING BALM THAT SOOTHED SLATE! AND, AS HE LOOKED UP...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DON'T YOU KNOW? I'M HERE TO KEEP YOU ALIVE... SO THAT YOU CAN FIND YOUR SOUL!
OH! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE... TO LOOK FOR MY SOUL?
YES! BUT BE CAREFUL! DANGER LURKS BEHIND EVERY CORNER, FOLLOW ME CLOSELY!
SLATE SOON FOUND HIMSELF AT A SLOW-MOVING, OOZY RIVULET THAT SEEMED TO COME FROM SHEER BLACKNESS!
BE DEATHLY STILL...
WHERE ARE WE? I--I'M SCARED! I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME...

THE TUNNEL NARROWED DOWN TO A SINGLE, SLIMY HOLE... AND AS SLATE CRAWLED THROUGH IT, HE WAS UNAWARE OF WHAT FRANTIC HORROR AWAITED HIM...

WHO..? NO. NO! I COULDN'T BE...
YES, IT'S US! THE MEN YOU MURDERED.
THAT'S WHY YOU LOST YOUR SOUL, RICKY!
SUDDENLY, SLATE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE GRIP OF COLD DEATH...
COME ON RICKY! YOU'RE GOING TO THE SOULLESS DEPTHS!
NO-000!
WHAT?!!
THE OLD MAN ENTERED INTO THE SPECTRAL FRACAS, SEEMING TO DRAW UPON THE STRENGTH OF HIS YEARS TO FREE SLATE
YOU'RE LOOSE, RICKY, RUN!
BUT... WHERE?
GOT TO... RUN! THERE GO THROGH THERE...
SWIFTLY, FEVERISHLY, SLATE CLIMBED HIGHER, MAKING HIS BID FOR SAFETY... AND HE HEARD THE COURSE VOICE OF THE OLD MAD...
WAIT! WAIT!
NO! I'M NOT WAITING...
I'M SCRAMMING! RIGHT NOW!

ROCKY SLATE SQUIRMED THROUGH THE NARROW APERTURE TO ITS OTHER SIDE...ONLY TO FACE BUBBLING QUAGMIRES THAT EXUDED FETID ROT... AND AN OMINOUSLY FAMILIAR BLACK FIGURE
SA... NO! NO!
SLATE, YOU HAVE REACHED THE REALM OF THE SOULLESS DEPTHS!
YOUR SOUL'S LOST TO YOU FOREVER! GO! GO!
DON'T DON'T AIEEEE!
AS SLATE WAS SUCKED UNDER BY THE REEKING CAULDRONS OF QUICKSAND, A KINDLY WRINKLED FACE RUSHED TOWARD HIM...
HELP! HELLL...
I TRIED TO TELL YOU.. TRIED TO... OHHH...
IT'S ALL OVER... ALL OVER... ALL OVER...
SUDDENLY, MYSTICALLY THE BLACKNESS OF DEATH FADED AND IN ITS STEAD CAME THE PURE WHITE OF THE OPERATING ROOM... AND REALITY...
IT'S ALL OVER, DOCTOR!
I KNOW... I KNOW...
DURING THE OPERATION, I - I FELT THAT SLATE WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING AND I WAS HELPING HIM FIND IT! I WAS HELPING HIM FIND IT, I TRIED SO HARD... BUT HE GOT AWAY FROM ME, SOMEHOW...
I DON'T THINK IT WAS YOUR FAULT, DOCTOR!
THE END

MASK of HORROR

POP
GURGLE

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT A GREAT DISCOVERY THIS IS, ARCHER? A PLASTIC AS FLEXIBLE AS RUBBER AND STRONG AS STEEL AND TWICE AS USEFUL!
A FORTUNE CAN BE MADE FROM IT! YES, I CAN SEE!

LATER...
WHAT A FABULOUS DISCOVERY THIS IS WITH UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES! THINK OF THE MEDICAL AND MILITARY USES A PLASTIC LIKE THIS CAN BE ADAPTED TO!
A MILLION USES! CASTS, PLATES...BULLET PROOF VESTS... ARMOR...WHY ITS USE IS ENDLESS!

--AND WE HOLD THE PATENT RIGHTS ON IT! ARCHER, OUR FUTURE IS SECURE--DRIVE ON, BRODY!
YES, SIR!

AFTERWARDS INSIDE THE SUMPTUOUS CABOT MANSION...
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TROUBLING ME, ARCHER--AND THAT'S A METHOD OF PROCESSING THE PLASTIC! COME IN AND MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME...
DARLING! YOU'RE HOME EARLY!

HELLO, DEAR! I BROUGHT ARCHER HERE TO IRON OUT SOME BOTTLENECKS IN OUR PROCESS! HOW'S THINGS?
FINE, I GUESS, DARLING--IT'S JUST THAT I WISH YOU'D BE HOME MORE OFTEN!

SOON I WILL, LOUISE! OH, HERE ARE THE NOTES, ARCHER! LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS YOU ELIMINATE THE TIRESOME PROCESS SO THAT WE CAN MAKE IT FASTER!
ALL RIGHT, HENRY! GOOD NIGHT!

LATER IN THE LAB...
THAT POMPOUS FOOL! HE EXPECTS ME TO BE HIS SLAVE! WELL, HE PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS! THIS FORMULA HE GAVE ME WAS ALL I WANTED!

AND HIS WIFE IGNORES ME AS IF I WERE A SERVANT! I'LL SHOW HER!

I'VE PLANNED FOR THIS MOMENT! NOW WITH THE COMPLETE FORMULA IN MY HANDS, CABOT IS THROUGH! HE'LL DIE VIOLENTLY-- AND I'LL TAKE OVER EVERYTHING! BECAUSE HERE--HERE IS MY MASTERPIECE!

WITH THIS MASK, I'LL PLAY THE PART OF A FIEND ON THE LOOSE FOR VICTIMS! I'LL KILL RANDOMLY.. THEN STRIKE AT CABOT! NO ONE WILL BE SUSPICIOUS OF MY MOTIVE THEN!

AND SO, A FEW NIGHTS LATER AT A LOVER'S LANE IN A LOCAL PARK...
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING, FRED?
AW, C'MON, RELAX! DON'T SPOOK ON ME NOW, HONEY!

HA! HA!
ARGH!

AND A SHORT WHILE LATER ON A SIDE STREET...
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE BEHIND ME! UGH! THESE DESERTED STREETS...

WHAT IN-- ARRGH!
YOU'RE VICTIM THREE...JUST A BEGINNING FOR THE GRAND FINALE!

THE NEXT FEW WEEKS SAW TERROR UNLIMITED! THE MONSTER STRUCK EVERYWHERE, BRINGING HORROR INTO THE HEARTS OF A SHOCKED PUBLIC!

JUST LOOK AT THIS, ARCHER! HOW GHASTLY! ONE'S AFRAID TO SLEEP AT NIGHT!
YES, CABOT, ISN'T ONE?
BUT TONIGHT YOU WILL SLEEP FOREVER!
MANIAC MONSTER ON THE LOOSE

THAT EVENING HENRY CABOT DECIDED TO WALK HOME...
I'LL WAIT UNTIL HE APPROACHES THAT BUILDING, THEN IT WILL BE ALL OVER!
SUDDENLY!
WHAT IN-- IT'S HIS WIFE!
HENRY! YOU'RE ON TIME! NOW WE CAN GO TO THE NIGHT CLUB AS YOU HAD SUGGESTED!
WE'LL BE ALONE DEAR! I GAVE BRODY THE NIGHT OFF!
DIE! DIE!
NOW!
ARCHER RECOILED AND MELTED INTO THE SHADOWS! HIS PLANS HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY STYMIED! BUT NOW, SOMETHING URGED HIM ON...ON...
I MUST KILL! I WANT TOO SEE HER AGONIZED FACE! HA! HA!
AND THE KILLER INSTINCT DROVE ARCHER OVER A PATH OF BLOOD THAT ULTIMATELY LED TO CABOT'S MANSION!
I HAVE AN UNCANNY SENSATION THAT SOMEONE IS WATCHING ME! JUST IMAGINATION, I GUESS!

HENRY! THIS TIME YOU'LL SLEEP FOREVER! DON'T LOOK SHOCKED... IT'S ME... ARCHER!
ARCHER! Y-YOU'RE THE FIEND?

YES, HENRY! FOR YEARS YOU'VE HAD EVERYTHING, AND I'VE ALWAYS RUN A POOR SECOND! BUT NO MORE! WHO WOULD THINK THAT THE FIEND WOULD HAVE A REASON TO KILL YOU!
NO! NO! YARGHHHH!

GOODBYE, HENRY! I'LL BE YOUR SUCCESSOR! IT'S IRONIC THAT YOUR OWN INVENTION KILLED YOU IN THE END, DIDN'T IT? WHA--?
HELP! HELP!

HENRY'S WIFE'S SCREAMS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF HER NEIGHBORS WHO SUMMONED THE POLICE, AND--
IT'S THE FIEND! STOP HIM!
TOO BAD I COULDN'T FINISH HER OFF! ...MUST RUN FASTER, OR THEY'LL CATCH ME!

ARCHER RAN AS IF THE VERY DEVILS WERE AFTER HIM... AND WHEN HE REACHED HIS ROOM...
...THEY'LL QUESTION ME NO DOUBT! YES, I HEAR THEM COMING! HA! HA! I'LL SAY I WAS KNOCKED DOWN BY THE FIEND! THEY'LL NEVER FIND THE PLASTIC! I-I-I'LL--

SHOCKING, ISN'T IT? BUT THE ALMOST LIVING PULSATING PLASTIC LEFT A PERMANENT FACE OF THE FIEND ON YOU! LISTEN, ARCHER, THAT KNOCKING ON THE DOOR... IT'S THE POLICE...
The End

THE DEADLY CORPSE

ANDREW GRANGER WAS ONE WEEK DEAD.. BUT NOTHING COULD KEEP HIM LYING IN HIS GRAVE... NOTHING EXCEPT A BOOK THAT CONTAINED THE FEARFUL SECRET OF... **RAISING THE DEAD!**

LATE ONE AUTUMN DAY, CHARLES VENABLE TURNED UP THE PUDDLE-FILLED DRIVEWAY OF A NEGLECTED ESTATE. THE HOME OF CARL GRANGER!

EVERY THING ABOUT THE PLACE LOOKED **DEAD!** THE GROUNDS, THE MANSION, THE STAINED MARBLE TERRACE, EVERYTHING

...THEY'VE LET EVERYTHING GO TO RUIN... **WHY?**

CHARLES VENABLE SOON FOUND SOMETHING HERE THAT REVOLTED HIM! SOMETHING ABNORMALLY EVIL...
IT EVEN SMELLS BAD! I OUGHT TO TURN AROUND AND GO BACK!
KNOCK KNOCK

BUT-- CHARLES VENABLE KNOCKED ON THE THICK DOOR AND WAS ADMITTED!
YOU MUST BE MY NEW SECRETARY! COME IN! PLEASE EXCUSE THE WAY THIS PLACE LOOKS!
RATHER NEGLECTED, I'D SAY!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? THE THINGS OF THE MATERIAL WORLD DO NOT COUNT! LET IT ROT! THIS WAY, PLEASE!

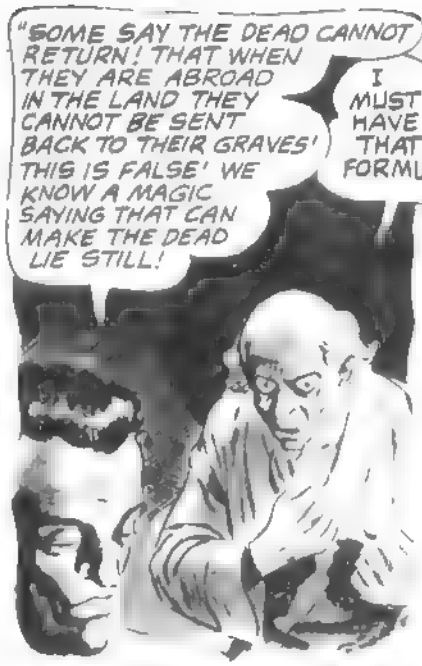
TELL ME, MR. VENABLE, ARE YOU AFRAID OF DEATH? OF THE DYING? OF THE DEAD?
N-NO MORE THAN THE NEXT MAN: BUT WHAT HAS THAT TO DO AS MY JOB AS A SECRETARY?

YOU'LL SEE! YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR MANY STRANGE THINGS! THIS WAY, PLEASE... TO MY STUDY!

Y-YOUR STUDY? W-WHAT ARE THOSE?
CORPSES! I USE DEAD MEN IN MY RESEARCH! DID THE AGENCY TELL YOU I NEED A MAN WHO CAN READ SANSKRIT?

I MUST HAVE CERTAIN PASSAGES TRANSLATED TO COMPLETE MY STUDIES! HERE... PLEASE TRANSLATE FROM THIS BOOK!

WHY, T-THIS BOOK... IT... IT'S ABOUT BRINGING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE!
AND VICE VERSA! PLEASE READ ALOUD!


"SOME SAY THE DEAD CANNOT RETURN! THAT WHEN THEY ARE ABROAD IN THE LAND THEY CANNOT BE SENT BACK TO THEIR GRAVES! THIS IS FALSE! WE KNOW A MAGIC SAYING THAT CAN MAKE THE DEAD LIE STILL!
I MUST HAVE THAT FORMULA!

I MUST HAVE IT, YOU HEAR? IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS BOOK!
WHY DO YOU NEED A MAGIC FORMULA FOR RETURNING THE DEAD TO THEIR GRAVES?

THERE! YOU HEAR IT? THAT SLITHERING SOUND ALONG THE HALLWAY?
SSSSSSS
YES! WHAT IS IT?

I HEAR IT EVERY NIGHT! I'M AFRAID TO LOOK!
I'LL OPEN THE DOOR AND SEE WHAT IT IS!
SSSSHHH

NO! NOT YET! NOT UNTIL I HAVE THAT MAGIC FORMULA!
BUT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND OUT THERE?

I--I DON'T KNOW! BUT IF YOU FIND THE FORMULA... THEN I CAN OPEN THE DOOR! THEN I CAN DARE FACE WHATEVER IT IS!

THAT'S WHY YOU MUST FIND THAT PASSAGE! ONLY THAT MAGIC FORMULA CAN SAVE ME NOW! SAY YOU WILL FIND IT, VENABLE! SAY IT!
I'LL TRY, SIR!

And so, VENABLE TOOK THE JOB! HE BEGAN TO READ DAY AND NIGHT! HE DID NOTHING BUT TRANSLATE! GRANGER REFUSED TO LET HIM REST!
YOU MUST GO ON! YOU MUST FIND THAT MAGIC PHRASE SOMEWHERE IN THE BOOK!
THE PRINT IS SO FINE! THE LANGUAGE IS SO DIFFICULT!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? MY LIFE'S AT STAKE! I...THE SOUND! IT'S BACK AGAIN!
WHY DON'T WE SEE WHAT IT IS? I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK!
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T LET IT INTO THE ROOM! YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP TRANSLATING!
BUT HOW CAN I WITH THAT THING CRAWLING AROUND?
NOW IT'S POUNDING ON THE DOOR!
GO AWAY! GO AWAY, I TELL YOU! LEAVE ME ALONE!
THE POUNDING IS LOUDER! STRONGER! VENABLE, PLEASE HELP ME!
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT WAIT FOR THE POUNDING TO STOP... YET, THE NEXT NIGHT THE POUNDING GREW BOLDER AND WOKE VENABLE... HE GRASPED THE SWORD FROM THE KNIGHT AND RACED INTO THE HALL...
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
GET AWAY FROM HERE! GO...OR I'LL KILL YOU!
YEEIII!
WHAM WHACK

HAS IT GONE, VENABLE?
YES! BUT YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME!

I CAN'T! I MUSTN'T! I-I CAN'T TELL ANYONE!
YOU'LL TALK, GRANGER, OR I WALK OUT OF THIS HOUSE RIGHT NOW!

COME INSIDE MY STUDY, VENABLE! EACH TIME HE RETURNS HE GETS STRONGER AND BOLDER!
HE? WHO?

"MY BROTHER... ANDREW! WE WERE BOTH STUDENTS OF SORCERY! WE WERE STUDYING HOW TO BRING BACK THE DEAD! ANDREW WAS BRILLIANT, AND I WAS JEALOUS..."
YOU'RE JEALOUS, CARL!
WHY NOT? YOU'RE THE BRILLIANT ONE, NOT ME!

"THE IDEA THAT ANDREW WAS SMARTER THAN I WAS DESTROYING ME! SO ONE NIGHT I TOOK UP A KNIFE...
DIE! DIE, GENIUS!
EEEAHH!

"I STABBED HIM UNTIL I WAS ARM WEARY! THEN I BURIED HIM IN THE GARDEN! NO ONE KNOWS WHERE ANDREW IS... OR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM EXCEPT ME!"

EACH NIGHT HE RETURNS-- FROM HIS GRAVE! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT TO FIND THAT FORMULA! WE MUST KEEP ANDREW IN HIS GRAVE!
COUNT ME OUT! I WON'T HELP A MURDERER!

AS VENABLE LEFT THE STUDY, HE FROZE IN HIS TRACKS!
THE CORPSE, GRANGER! LOCK YOUR DOOR!
IT WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND THAT FORMULA!
ALL RIGHT! GIVE ME THE BOOK!
THE DOOR IS LOCKED! HE CAN'T GET IN! HURRY, VENABLE.. READ!
CRACK!
HE'S BREAKING THROUGH!
YOU MURDERING WRETCH! YOU LOST YOUR HEAD LAST WEEK! NOW YOU'LL LOSE IT PERMANENTLY!
NO! STAY AWAY! VENABLE, HELP ME!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW! I'LL GET THE POLICE!
NOTHING WILL HELP! YOU'RE DOOMED, CARL, DOOMED!
EEE!!
WHEN THE POLICE CAME THEY FOUND ONE BODY DECAPITATED! THE OTHER LAY NEARBY WITH A SURGICAL SAW IN ITS CLAMMY HAND...
ONE CORPSE IS A WEEK OLDER THAN THE OTHER! BUT HOW COME ITS GOT AN ARM AROUND THE FRESH STIFF?
CORONER, WHAT'S THE ANSWER?
THE ANSWER IS A MAGIC FORMULA! IT'S IN THIS BOOK IF YOU CAN FIND IT!
THE END

ELDRITCH MANOR WAS RICH IN TRADITION! FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, THE ELDRITCHES HAD LIVED THERE... AT FIRST LIKE PETTY RULERS, AND THEN, AS THEIR FORTUNES DECLINED, MERELY AS RICH ECCENTRICS WHO KEPT APART FROM THE BUSTLING ACTIVITY OF THE TOWN! AND NOW. THE FINAL INDIGNITY OF ALL... THERE WERE RUMORS ABOUT.

THE HUNGRY GHOUL

ELLISON ELDRITCH WAS SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF THE FAMILY LAWYER. THERE, AFTER THE PRELIMINARIES WERE DISPENSED WITH, HE RECEIVED THE DEED TO HIS ANCESTRAL MANOR.
ELDRITCH MANOR BELONGS TO YOU, ELLISON! IT HAS A NOBLE TRADITION. I KNOW YOU'LL TRY TO UPHOLD IT!
I-I HAVEN'T SEEN THE PLACE SINCE I WAS A SMALL CHILD!

IT'S BEEN WELL PRESERVED. YOUR COUSIN AMBROSE, WHO LEFT IT TO YOU AT HIS DEATH, WAS VERY CAREFUL ABOUT THAT. YOU'LL FIND IT A SPACIOUS HOME, ALTHOUGH A LITTLE LONELY AT FIRST.
I WON'T MIND THAT! I'M NOT MARRIED, YOU KNOW, AND I'M USED TO LIVING ALONE.

A FEW DAYS LATER ELLISON ARRIVED AT THE OLD FAMILY MANSION.
IT'S LIKE COMING.. HOME AGAIN! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GONE AWAY!
MANOR

IN THE GREAT ECHOING ENTRANCE HALL, ELLISON STOOD MOTIONLESS, AS A THOUSAND MEMORIES OF HIS CHILDHOOD DRIFTED THROUGH HIS MIND.
I REMEMBER IT ALL NOW.

THERE'S UNCLE JUNIPER. HE WAS MASTER OF THE HOUSE THEN. I ALWAYS THOUGHT HIM A QUEER OLD MAN.

GRANDFATHER MARTIN. I NEVER SAW HIM. BUT I HEARD STORIES ABOUT HIM. HE WAS CERTAINLY A LITTLE ECCENTRIC!

AND DEAR COUSIN AMBROSE! SUCH A FUSSY OLD MAN. A NATURAL HERMIT TYPE. WHEN HE BECAME MASTER HERE, HE SHUT HIMSELF UP IN THIS HOUSE AND NEVER STIRRED OUTSIDE OF IT!

BUT THEY'RE ALL ELDRITCHES AND I'M PROUD OF THEM. NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN BOAST OF A FAMILY TRADITION THAT DATES BACK NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED YEARS.

AFTER GOING THROUGH THE OLD HOUSE, REDOLENT WITH SO MANY MEMORIES, ELLISON PAID A VISIT TO THE FAMILY MAUSOLEUM, A GIANT STRUCTURE OF LIMESTONE AND MARBLE ON THE LAWN OF THE MANOR HOUSE! HEH! HEH! IF HE ONLY KNEW!
ALL OF MY ANCESTORS ARE BURIED HERE!

EACH ONE HAS A SEPARATE CHAMBER WITH HIS COFFIN IN IT! THINK OF IT! GENERATION AFTER GENERATION LIES BURIED HERE!

GRANDFATHER MARTIN! HIS SKELETON IS ALREADY STARTING TO MOLDER INTO DUST!

GENTLY WITH A FEELING OF AWE AND REVERENCE, ELLISON CLOSED THE MARBLE LID OF THE COFFIN!
THE COFFIN'S NEVER BEEN SEALED! GRANDFATHER MARTIN KNEW THAT NO ONE BUT AN ELDRITCH WOULD EVER INVADE THIS PLACE!

SOMEDAY I'LL BE BURIED HERE, TOO! I'M GLAD TO KNOW THAT! I'LL BECOME PART OF THE ELDRITCH TRADITION... AND NO STRANGER WILL EVER DISTURB MY REST AND PEACE!

ARE YOU THINKING PERHAPS, THAT ELLISON IS A LITTLE TOO MORBID A PERSONALITY? WELL, HE IS AN ELDRITCH, YOU KNOW!
AND THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE OLD MANOR THAT AFFECTS MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY THAT WAY! THEY ALL GET A LITTLE MORBID!

AS THE WEEKS PASSED, ELLISON FELL INTO THE HABIT OF VISITING THE FAMILY MAUSOLEUM! HE LIKED THE FEELING OF BEING SURROUNDED BY THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF HIS OWN KITH AND KIN! AND THEN, ONE MORNING, AS HE WENT THROUGH THE MAUSOLEUM HALLS ..
AMBROSE'S COFFIN! IT'S OPEN!

SOMEONE HAS BEEN HERE! AMBROSE'S BODY HAS BEEN.. OHHH! THE FIENDISH GHOULS

THE SAME DAY ELLISON VISITED A STORE IN TOWN TO PLACE A STRANGE ORDER.
I WANT A STEEL TRAP! BIG ENOUGH TO CATCH A MAN!
A STEEL TRAP? Y-YES, MR. ELDRITCH!

I WONDER WHAT YOUNG ELDRITCH WANTS W TH A TRAP THAT SIZE? AIN T NO BIG ANIMALS AROUND HIS PLACE!
HE'S A QUEER ONE, JUST LIKE THE REST OF HIS FAMILY!

ELLISON ELDRITCH BROUGHT THE HUGE TRAP TO THE MAUSOLEUM AND PLANTED IT NEAR THE ENTRANCE WHERE ANY STRANGER ENTERING WOULD BE SURE TO STEP INTO IT IN THE DARKNESS! IF HE ONLY KNEW!

IF THAT GHOUL COMES HERE AGAIN, HE'LL GET A SHOCK! I HOPE IT KILLS H·M! A FIEND LIKE THAT DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE!

ELLISON RETIRED FOR THE NIGHT THEN, AND SLEPT A TROUBLED SLEEP HAUNTED BY STRANGE VISIONS!
W-WHO'S THAT? I-I THOUGHT I HEARD AMBROSE CALLING OUT!

AMBROSE SEEMED TO BE BEGGING FOR MERCY! IT MUST HAVE BEEN A NIGHTMARE! BUT IT SEEMED SO REAL! I'LL HURRY OVER TO THE MAUSOLEUM RIGHT AWAY!

WHEN ELLISON ENTERED THE MAUSOLEUM, HE RECEIVED AN UNWELCOME SURPRISE! THE STEEL TRAP HAD BEEN CAREFULLY MOVED TO ONE SIDE... OUT OF THE WAY OF THE INTRUDER!
THE GHOUL HAS BEEN HERE... AGAIN!

AMBROSE'S BODY! IT--IT'S BEEN DISTURBED! HOW CAN ANYONE DESECRATE THE DEAD? HOW CAN HUMAN BEINGS SINK SO LOW?

HORRIFIED AND REVOLTED BY WHAT HE SAW, ELLISON WASTED NO TIME IN NOTIFYING THE POLICE! TWO PATROLMEN WERE ASSIGNED TO GUARD THE ELDRITCH MAUSOLEUM!
BRRR! A MIGHTY COLD NIGHT!
JUST MAKE CERTAIN YOU DON'T LEAVE! NOT FOR AN INSTANT! OR I'LL REPORT YOU TO YOUR SUPERIORS!
ELDRITCH

A NICE FRIENDLY FELLOW, I CALL HIM! DOESN'T CARE WHETHER WE FREEZE OR NOT! MIGHT AT LEAST HAVE OFFERED US A CUP OF COFFEE!
HE'S A LOT MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE DEAD FOLKS IN THERE, THAN ABOUT THE LIVING!

WHILE THE UNFORTUNATE PATROLMEN SHIVERED IN THE COLD, ELLISON ELDRITCH RELAXED BESIDE A ROARING FIRE WITH HIS FAVORITE READING MATTER!
THE ELDRITCH FAMILY HISTORY! EVERY MEMBER OF MY FAMILY HAS ADDED SOMETHING TO IT DURING HIS LIFETIME!

DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES THE FAMILY RECORD CONTINUED! ELLISON READ ON IN A STRANGE FASCINATION, UNTIL HE CAME UPON AN ENTRY BY GRANDFATHER MARTIN!
G-GOOD HEAVENS! GRANDFATHER MENTIONS A GHOUL WHO RAIDED THE FAMILY MAUSOLEUM IN HIS DAY!

CAN IT BE THE SAME ONE? BUT IT'S SO FANTASTIC! TOO BAD GRANDFATHER'S RECORD STOPPED WHERE IT DID! HE MENTIONED HE WAS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THE REAL IDENTITY OF THE GHOUL!

PART OF GRANDFATHER MARTIN'S RECORD HAD BEEN TORN OUT OF THE BOOK, LEAVING ONLY A JAGGED FRAGMENT! IF ONLY HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO READ THE REST OF IT, ELLISON THOUGHT, AS HE DOZED OFF BESIDE THE FIRE! ONCE AGAIN A TROUBLED SLEEP CAME TO HIM!

AND WHEN HE AWOKE, IT WAS TO THE GRATING SOUND OF A MAN'S VOICE AND THE BLINDING GLARE OF A FLASHLIGHT BEAM IN THE DARKNESS!
W-WHERE AM I? WHAT IS THIS?
YOU'RE IN THE MAUSOLEUM, MR. ELDRITCH! WE SAW YOU COME IN A LITTLE WHILE AGO, AND FOLLOWED YOU!

I GUESS WE'VE CAUGHT THE GHOUL WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! SNAP THE HANDCUFFS ON HIM!
UGGH! WHAT A FIEND HE TURNED OUT TO BE! AND HE COMES FROM SUCH A FINE FAMILY, TOO!
NOW ELLISON KNEW WHAT GRANDFATHER MARTIN SUSPECTED ABOUT THE GHOUL'S IDENTITY! YOU SEE, GRANDFATHER WAS A GHOUL, TOO, AS WERE ALL THE ELDRITCHES THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER SEALED THEIR COFFINS! THEY WANTED THE NEXT ELDRITCH GHOUL TO HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT! HEH! HEH!

END

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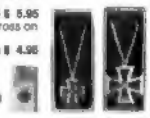

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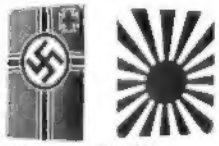

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